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January 15, 2008

Ms. Jennifer Russell
Parks, Trails & Recreation Director
City of Lafayette
500 St. Mary's Road
Lafayette, CA 94549

Dear Jennifer,

I feel sad as I sit down to write this letter of resignation from the Lafayette Youth Commission because it has been such a source of joy these past five years. The position of Adult Advisor has allowed me to realize a value that is very important in my life; that of building community by fostering an environment for teenagers that provide opportunities for growth and leadership. I am sad for I am no longer in the position to devote the necessary hours to accomplish my goals as an Adult Advisor.

Simply attending meetings and not having the time to create the nurturing environment it takes to motivate, inspire and mentor the commissioners leaves me feeling frustrated. As I have come to learn since discovering that I actually like teenagers, at this stage of their lives they thrive in an environment that challenges them, gives them the independence they insist upon, while providing the constant guidance they need to see their commitments through to conclusion. I had the time and energy to accomplish these goals when working part-time while my son Tucker was high school, however, my career goals now leave me with little time to spare.

I considered leaving at the end of the year, but think it is more important that a new Adult Advisor be appointed before the weekend team-building retreat at the end of May, for it will allow this person to get to know and bond with the commissioners. Building the annual haunted house requires the commissioners to work together as a team over the summer and the adult advisor will then also have an opportunity to stay in touch with and motivate the new leadership.

Please know you have been an inspiration and mentor all these years. I admire your for building such a productive department within the City of Lafayette. Your staff has big hearts and work together to make Lafayette the special place it is to live. When I see the "Love Lafayette" bumper stickers I know it starts at the Parks and Recreation Department! It starts with Jennifer Russell.

I would like to personally announce my resignation to the commissioners at our next meeting, January 28th with a party (which I plan to host) and then also take the opportunity to celebrate the past five years. Leaving is not easy, but it will be easier for me if it all happens in one night.

I know the young adults of our city will continue to benefit from the activities of the Lafayette Youth Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to have been a part of this wonderful organization.

Sincerely,

W. M. Holgerson

Wilma Holgerson

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